

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 912

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 0964

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, VS, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN ICCS

1. SUMMARY: TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL EDITORIAL AND OPED
FEATURE APR 17, VOICE GROWING CONCERN OVER CANADIAN
PARTICIPATION IN ICCS. SHOOTING DOWN OF ICCS HELICOPTER
AND SCALE OF INDOCHINA HOSTILITIES HAVE CHANGED MOOD OF
PRESS AND HAVE SOMEWHAT LESSENERED LIKELIHOOD OF CONTINUED
CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN ICCS BEYOND JUNE 30. END SUMMARY.

2. TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL, CANADA'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS
DAILY NEWSPAPER, RAN EDITORIAL APR 17 POINTING TO
DETERIORATING SITUATION IN CAMBODIA AND CONCLUDING THAT
A TRUCE, BE IT IN VIETNAM OR IN CAMBODIA, " IS LIKELY TO
BE ABANDONED THE MOMENT ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER SEES AN ADVANTAGE
TO BE GAINED." THE EDITORIAL SAYS " THIS ASPECT OF THE
INDOCHINA PROBLEM MUST FORCE THE GOC TO QUESTION THE USEFUL-
NESS OF ITS TRUCE ROLE," AND THAT " THERE IS MORE AND MORE
EVIDENCE THAT THE SO- CALLED TRUCE WAS DESIGNED SIMPLY TO
GET THE UNITED STATES OUT OF SOUTHEAST ASIA WITH SOME SEMBLANCE
OF DIGNITY WHILE THE OTHER TWO SIDES REGROUPED FOR THE
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NEXT ROUND OF THE STRUGGLE." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT " EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER SHARP IS WILLING TO GIVE THE WHOLE BUSINESS ANOTHER SIX WEEKS OR SO BUT IF BY THEN NOTHING HAS CHANGED FOR THE BETTER HE SHOULD WRITE IT OFF AS, AT BEST, A WASTE OF TIME AND BRING THE CANADIANS HOME."

3. OPPOSITE THIS EDITORIAL IS A FEATURE COMMENTARY BY CORRESPONDENT CHARLES TAYLOR ENTITLED " IS CANADA THE U. S. PATSY IN VIETNAM?" TAYLOR CONTENDS THAT HOSTILITIES IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA HAVE MADE CANADA'S ROLE AS PEACE-KEEPER " INCREASINGLY FUTILE AND INCREASINGLY PERILOUS." TAYLOR DESCRIBES U. S., RVN, AND DRV ACTIONS IN CAMBODIA AS " IN OPEN CONTEMPT OF THE PARIS AGREEMENTS.", HE CONTENDS THAT " COMMUNISTS SEEM DETERMINED TO FRUSTRATE THE CANADIAN ICCS TEAM." TAYLOR LISTS NUMEROUS ALLEGED CEASE- FIRE VIOLATIONS (ON BOTH SIDES) AND SAYS " ICCS WAS DOOMED TO FAILURE FROM THE MOMENT IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT CANADA WAS THE ONLY NATION THAT TOOK ITS MANDATE SERIOUSLY." HE SAYS " IT NOW SEEMS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER SHARP AND HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES WILL BE FORCED TO HONOR THEIR THREAT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ICCS OR TO EAT THEIR OWN WORDS ."

4. COMMENT: THE TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL POSITION ILLUSTRATES A SHIFT IN THE PRESS ON CANADA'S ICCS PARTICIPATION, AND REFLECTS A GENERAL MOOD OF DISCOURAGEMENT IN THE FACE OF THE SHOOTDOWN OF THE ICCS HELICOPTER AND THE CONTINUING HOSTILITIES IN INDOCHINA. IT NOW SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE GOC FOR CANADIAN ICCS PARTICIPATION BEYOND JUNE 30 WILL BE MORE STRICTLY APPLIED THAN MIGHT PREVIOUSLY HAVE BEEN THE CASE. UNLESS THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION BEFORE MAY 31, THE GOC WILL PROBABLY BE UNDER INCREASING DOMESTIC PRESSURE TO SERVE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL. SCHMIDT

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